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State Guardianship: A Look at Youth in Hennepin County

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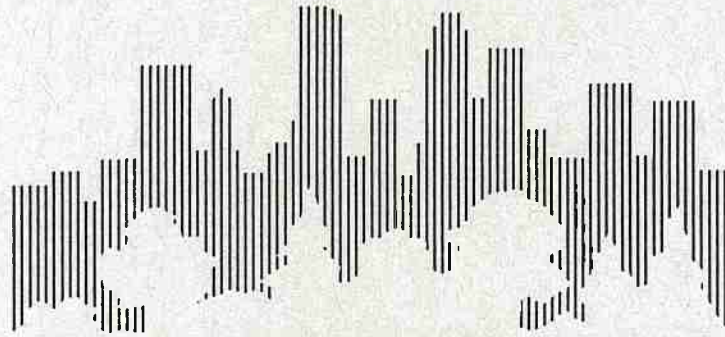
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MASTERS IN SOCIAL WORK THESIS

Kimberly Shannon Doran

**State Guardianship:
A Look at Youth in Hennepin County**

1996

**MSW
Thesis**

Thesis
Doran

**State Guardianship:
A Look at Youth in Hennepin County**

**Thesis submitted in fulfillment
of the requirements of the
Master of Social Work Degree
at Augsburg College.**

**Kimberly Shannon Doran
June 3, 1996**

MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
AUGSBURG COLLEGE
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

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In Dedication to my Grandmothers,
women of strength and wisdom:

Sheila Ward Butler

*for teaching me to be creative
not only in what I make
but in how I think.*

Rosamond Gilchrist Doran

*for setting an example to strive
for social justice on
behalf of those who can not.*

Abstract

This study is an explorative evaluation of the placement status and identifying characteristics of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County, Minnesota. A survey design was used to ascertain information about youth, ages 0-17, eligible for adoption in Hennepin County from January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1995. The information was provided by the Hennepin County Adoptions Unit.

Data resulting from this study did not answer the primary research question regarding the placement status of youth awaiting adoption in the age category of interest. Study results revealed that twelve percent were adopted. The research provides identifying characteristics about the youth regarding age, race and sibling group status. Based on the results of this study there appears to be a need for social workers to advocate on behalf of youth awaiting adoptive placements, specifically for children of color and those in sibling groups.

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Introduction

This chapter will provide a definition of state guardianship and describe what type of youth is eligible to be under state guardianship. This chapter will also cover the purpose and rationale for this study, along with identifying its relevance to social work practice. The chapter will conclude by stating the research questions to be examined for the purposes of this study.

Minnesota Child Welfare Agencies have social workers and other professionals whose case loads include youth who are under state guardianship. These youth are under full custody of the State of Minnesota, due to a decision by the courts to terminate the rights of their parents. Specifically, for these youth, the State assumes the role of parent and makes decisions and choices on their behalf. These children are legally free for adoption while under state guardianship. All legal authority governing these children is handled by a representative of the State of Minnesota. The State is usually represented by county social workers assigned to the youths' cases.

All of these youth under state guardianship are eligible for adoption. For some youth, adoption is not an option, for several reasons. Their age or proximity to emancipation is one reason. They may be involved in corrections and residential treatment placements, or they may exhibit behaviors that preclude their eligibility for adoption (Barker

1990, Barth 1994, Berrick 1993).

Being ineligible for adoption becomes an issue of permanency for youth under state guardianship. A youth's perception of permanency, or lack of permanency, may also be an issue for those professionals serving the youth. Through a lack of permanency in a family situation, many of these youth have multiple placements before they age out of the system. These placements may include: foster care, emergency shelters, group homes, residential treatment centers, and corrections facilities (Iglehart 1993, Laird 1985). Due to the high recidivism rate, in and out of different placements among these children, many of them begin to exhibit behavior which will sabotage placements which are intended to become permanent (MN State Planning Agency 1990).

In an attempt to create permanency for youth in out-of-home placements, youth receive a dispositional hearing no later than 18 months after their original placement date. This hearing is to determine the future placement status of the youth. The options include: family reunification, foster care for a specified amount of time, eligibility for adoption, and foster care on a long term or permanent basis (P.L. 96-272).

Purpose and Rational of the Study

The purpose of this research is to examine one population of youth under state guardianship in order to determine basic

identifying characteristics about them and their living situations. This research will examine demographic characteristics which represent the youth. These characteristics will include race, age at the time of termination of parental rights and academic success. It will also examine the living arrangements of the children by identifying the types of placements they have, their number of placements and what their case plan goals are for the time they leave the child welfare system.

Descriptions of the type of youth who are under state guardianship will be beneficial for professionals working with the youth. There is a substantial amount of literature written about youth in out-of-home placements, but very little written which specifically identifies youth who are under state guardianship. This research will help to outline what type of youth under state guardianship are in placement and how their placement status is defined.

This study of demographic characteristics of youth under state guardianship is valuable and crucial to determine how these youth move through the system, and whether or not they establish a permanent relationship with a primary care giver. Creating a bond with a primary care giver establishes consistency and accountability for these youth who otherwise are not necessarily attached to anyone in particular. This bond affects the emotional and cognitive development of the youth (Lopez & Gover, 1993).

Youth who have multiple placements are in a position to develop new behaviors which can create or exaggerate problem behaviors (Iglehart 1993). This adds a barrier to successful attachment by the youth to those providing care for them. When this occurs permanency becomes more difficult to establish for the youth.

The relevance to social work practice of this investigation lies in the type of information it will present for social workers, and other professionals, in the child welfare field working with youth under state guardianship. Specifically, it will investigate the characteristics which identify youth under state guardianship in the State of Minnesota, residing in Hennepin County. This investigation will also assess the potential need for further examination of the individual needs of youth who are under state guardianship, specifically those who will not be adopted before they age out of the system. They may have needs for services not necessarily needed by youth who have biological or adoptive families to be reunited with upon their exit from the child welfare system.

They study had two research questions. They are, What is the placement status of youth under state guardianship living in Hennepin County during the time of January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995? What are the identifying characteristics of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County Minnesota during the time of January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995?

Through the definition of youth under state guardianship offered in this section, the purpose and the rational for this study was addressed. The relevance of this study to the practice of social work was outlined by questioning what type of youth is under state guardianship. Finally, the research questions were identified in order to address the issues raised about youth under state guardianship. The next chapter will cover the issues associated with being under state guardianship and youth in out of home placements.

Statement of the Problem

This chapter is divided into two sections. Those sections discuss foster care and placement status of youth. Research related studies which examine the specific issues addressed by this study about state guardianship is limited. It is, however, possible to examine foster care and adoption in several other areas.

The literature review will raise several issues about youth in out-of-home placements. The literature is largely void of discussions about youth in out-of-home placements who are under state guardianship. There is the potential for youth under state guardianship to react differently than other youth in out-of-home placements, based upon the fact that their relationships with their families have been severed through a termination of parental rights.

Through the review of the literature, it will be demonstrated that there are several factors which influence why adolescent youth are in out-of-home placements. It will also examine the types of behavior which precipitate the need for placement and later for the termination of the placement.

Foster Care

There are conflicting ideas about long term foster care being an appropriate option for adolescent youth in out-of-home placements. Barth (1987) discusses foster care as a permanent option as not always being the best choice. Two

reasons he gives for this assertion are, foster care can always be terminated and youth in permanent foster home placements fall behind their adopted peers in academic success and social skills.

According to Kroner (1988), long term foster care has the potential to good choice because it can connect youth to all of the community resources around them. Long term foster care provides a greater wealth of opportunity for the youth than an institutional setting could. Those youth who are mature enough to be independent will have a greater number of opportunities in a community through a foster home setting, than they would have in an institutional setting.

A description of the youth's behavior and how it can influence their placement options is a very important issue to be raised. Even the best laid case plan for permanency for youth can be altered as a result of the youth's behavior. Some of these behaviors are ones they have before they enter the child welfare system and others develop while in placement.

Status of Youth

The idea of status can be ambiguous. There are several variables which will be studied in order to illustrate which demographic characteristics describe these youth. Those variables to be studied include: age at the time of a termination of parental rights, the reasons for termination of

parental rights, race, gender, type of placements, average number of placements, case plan goals, and at what age is an adoptive home no longer sought for youth.

An implication of this study for the practice of social work include the clarification of what type of child is under state guardianship. Through clearly identifying demographic characteristics of youth under state guardianship, it will be easier to explore how they differ from other children who are in out-of-home placements. This investigation can be a catalyst for further investigation into what the needs of children under state guardianship are and how they differ from other children for whom permanency planning is their placement status.

An important question raised when considering the role of the State as a parent is, do youth under state guardianship view permanence, specifically as it applies to family life, differently than youth who still have connections to their families? If so, does this impact their success in foster care placements? Before this question, or one similar to it, can be investigated, a study of demographic characteristics identifying who youth under state guardianship are and what their status is, needs to be done. This would include discovering what type of placements the youth have, what their case plans are, and how often they change placements. This identification process is the purpose of this study.

The research questions for this study are: What is the

placement status of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County Minnesota during the time January 1, 1994, through December 31, 1995? and What are the identifying characteristics of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County Minnesota from January 1, 1994, through December 31, 1995?

Review of Literature

This chapter will examine literature relevant to youth under state guardianship. This chapter will be divided into seven sections. Those section will address the issues of length of state guardianship, youth characteristics, placement of children of color, permanency case plan goals, types of out-of-home placements, continued contact with parents and a theoretical framework for this study. This chapter will also discuss how the literature influenced this study.

The review of the literature conducted on youth in out of home placements, found that there is little literature which specifically identifies or details youth under state guardianship. Their individual characteristics and behavior patterns have yet to be defined by the literature. There are, however, several things written about youth who are involved in the child welfare system and in out-of-home placements. These placements may include: foster care, emergency shelter, residential treatment, hospitalization, corrections, and group homes. Since some of these children are under guardianship of the state, the behavior characteristics described for all youth is generalized to include youth under state guardianship.

Length of State Guardianship

The length of time that a youth is under state guardianship varies. It is dependent upon the time in the

youth's life, that the courts exercise a termination of parental rights. The age that a youth enters the child welfare system and begins out-of-home placements is not directly correlated to a time of termination of parental rights.

There are many children who have years of out-of-home placements who are not under state guardianship. There is a system of checks and balances for these youth through scheduled review of placements on a regular basis to evaluate if there is a continued need for the youth to be in placement (MN Law 257.071, 1991). The length of time it takes for the youth's parents to complete case plans can contribute to the length of time the youth is in placement. Likewise, there are many youth under state guardianship who are adopted soon after there is a termination of parental rights due to a courts decision early in their placement history.

Characteristics of youth in out-of-home placements

Many of the youth in out-of-home placements have or develop negative behavior characteristics. Some are behaviors they have before they enter the child welfare system and others develop while in placement. Some of these behaviors include: aggression, emotional and behavioral problems, chemical dependency issues, sexual acting out, self-abuse, truancy, impulsivity, low affect, and delayed social skills (Barth, 1994; Berrick, 1993; Berrick, Courtney & Barth, 1993;

Graziano & Mills, 1992).

There were several articles outlining what types of behavior the youth have in out-of-home placements. Iglehart (1993) completed a study that described behavior and traits of adolescents who are in foster care. The focus of this research was to determine if there were any particular circumstances or behaviors which are determinates for successful foster care placements.

Study results indicated that several factors need to be considered for each child who is placed in foster care. White children are more likely to be in foster care due to a child focus and non-white children are more likely to enter foster care for a parent focused reason.

Igelhart's study also found that the older the age of the adolescents entering foster care, the more likely they were to engage in acting out behavior. The article goes on to indicate that adolescents are more likely to enter care as a result of their behavior. Iglehart's study also found, "Those adolescents who had spent a longer period of time in their current placement were more likely to have higher acting out scores than those who had spent less time in their current placement" (1993, 530). Though adolescents may enter placement due to their behavior, this behavior may increase or escalate and sabotage their placements the longer they are there.

Iglehart's study indicates that ethnicity, age at time of

placement, and length of placement are all crucial factors to consider when looking at foster care as a resource for adolescents.

Many children in placement are victims of abuse or neglect. Moran and Eckenrode (1992) noted that those children who first experience abuse as adolescents are more likely to develop personality characteristics which function as protection against the negative consequences of being abused. For those youth who experienced the abuse beginning before the age of eleven, there is a higher likelihood that they will have low self-esteem and that their locus of control will be external to themselves. They may also have a greater degree of depression than their peers who were first abused as adolescents (Moran & Eckenrode, 1992). Youth with low self-esteem and an external locus of control are more vulnerable to be influenced by negative peers and adults. This increased the potential for them to engage in more deviant behaviors.

For some youth, the negative behaviors they manifest develop as a result of the situations they experience while in placement. These negative behaviors can be seen as survival skills. Whitbeck and Simons (1990) discuss the behavior characteristics of runaway youth. Some of the negative behaviors they noted of runaways and homeless youth were "panhandling, selling sexual favors, and taking or dealing drugs"(p. 111). They discuss the possibility that these behaviors may make the youth more vulnerable to criminal

attacks. The authors also made mention that the youth are likely to spend time with deviant acquaintances. For youth with low self-esteem and an external locus of control, as described by Moran and Eckenrode (1992), engaging in this type of deviant behavior increases their level of vulnerability to further negative consequences.

Placement for children of color

In the State of Minnesota, a distinctive characteristic of children in out-of-home placement is race. In the report to the Governor and the people of Minnesota from the Action for Children Commission, written in February 1992, it was stated, "In 1989, children of color were over-represented in foster care in Minnesota by a ratio of 7-to-1, compared to a 2-to-1 ratio nation wide" (pg.i).

According to the 1990 Census, there are 4,375,099 people in the State of Minnesota. Approximately, six percent of those people are people of color (1990 Census). These statistics raise the question of how race impacts out-of-home placements for youth of color. The discrepancy between the percentage of people of color in Minnesota and the percentage of children of color in out-of-home placements indicates an area for further study.

In an attempt to support and foster ethnic and racial heritage, out-of-home placements for youth in Minnesota are regulated by the Heritage Act (MN Law 257.071, 1991) and the

Indian Child Welfare Act (Public Law 95-608, 1978). Through these legislative mandates, placement for youth must first be sought in a least restrictive, same race placement. If no same race placement is found, a suitable cross racial placement may be made. For American Indian youth, the tribes have authority to determine appropriate Indian or non-Indian placements (P.L. 95-608 92 STAT. 3069, Law 260.181. Subd. 3).

Permanency Case Plan Goals

Children in placement have regular case reviews to monitor their placement. In accordance with Public Law 96-272, a youth's placement must be in the least restrictive and most family like setting available to that youth. The placement should also be serving the best interest of the child, including special needs and be in a close proximity to where the youths' parent's home is located (P.L. 96-272 94 STAT. 511). For many youth who are in out-of-home placements, there is a case plan including some type of a permanency plan. This type of plan would be devised for youth who are under state guardianship, as well as for other youth in out-of-home care. There have been many things written in the literature about permanency planning such as the role of long term foster care and family involvement with youth in out-of-home care (Barth, 1987; Eagle, 1990; Kates, Johnson, Rader, & Strieder, 1991).

Kinship Care

One type of permanency planning often used involves the placement plan of kinship care. Kinship placements are those where a child is placed in a licensed home of a relative or a close family friend. A relative can be defined as by blood-ties as well as by marriage (Thornton 1991). This type of placement is being used more and more as a first choice before using traditional foster care placements. Kinship care meets the requirements of the Heritage Act by first considering relative of the child before seeking alternative resources for placement (Law 260.174 Subd. 3, Law 257.071 Subd. 1a).

Permanency planning and kinship foster care often go hand in hand. Thornton (1991) has written about the combination of permanency planning and kinship foster care. Thornton examined both positive and negative effects of using kinship care in permanency planning. Based on a study done by that author, one of the results found was that those individuals who were kinship foster parents were "overwhelmingly against the idea of adopting their related foster children" (1991, p. 596). The primary reason the author found for the foster parents not wanting to adopt the children was that the foster parents felt that it was not necessary because they were already family. The kinship foster parents also mentioned that there was potential for the adoption to create conflict in their relationship with the children's biological parents.

Another finding mentioned in Thornton's investigation was

that those children who are in kinship placements are more likely to be discharged to independent living than are youth in non-related foster care. More of the youth in non-related homes had plans for adoption or to be returned to their parents (1991). This study raises questions about the types of permanency planning used, especially based upon the reason for the youth being in placement.

One special consideration arises when thinking of youth under state guardianship. The idea of permanence can be different for them due to having had their relationships with their parents legally terminated. Special consideration needs to be given to these youth when considering foster care and its potential lack of permanence and how that will affect the youth when placed in that situation. The issue of permanency brings up the question, what sort of services do youth under state guardianship need in their foster care placements to be successful, as well as for them to be bonded to the foster care providers?

State Guardianship

Another type of legal arrangement for youth under state guardianship is guardianship. Guardianship refers to the transfer of legal authority, regarding making decisions about parenting, to the appointed guardian. This authority and decision making is free of child welfare agency intervention (Barth & Berry 1987). This is often considered to be a better

option than long term foster care for youth in out-of-home placements. This option allows the youth to have a primary adult in their life, usually someone they have a relationship with, without going through the adoption process.

Types of out of home placement

For youth in out-of-home placements, there are a few different options of them regarding their place of residence. This section will describe the different types of placement and some of their positive and negative aspects.

Though foster care is the most frequent used out-of-home placement, it is not considered by all to be the best option for youth, regardless of race. Some of the alternatives to foster care are independent living, group homes, and residential or institutional care. Kroner (1988) makes a statement which is a common thread with many authors writing about youth in out-of-home placements. He states, "Assuming options are available, the choice of the best possible alternative requires an understanding of the youth's abilities, limitations, level of maturation, and aspirations" (1988, 549).

Barth (1987) asserts that foster care is not a "preferred option" for adolescents when choosing an out-of-home placement. He goes on to state, "A 'permanent' placement is one that is intended but not guaranteed, to last forever" (1987, 75). According to Igelhart (1993), children who are in

one placement for a long amount of time act out more.

According to Barth (1987) children who are in long term foster care until the age eighteen fall behind their adopted peers in intellectual ability in academic success. They are more likely to use alcohol and be involved in criminal activity. With these behaviors it is likely that these children will not be able to sustain one placement but will have multiple placements.

Though foster care may not be the best option for adolescent youth, there are variables which can potentially enhance a foster care placement. Barth (1986) indicates some things which can enhance the success and future emancipation of the children in foster care. He specifically cites better contact with the schools the children are attending as an attempt to help them from falling behind their peers. He also asserts that continued contact with biological parents, though hard to do, can be beneficial to the children in foster care placements.

Not all of the literature points to foster care as being a negative choice for adolescent youth. Kroner (1988) has a more positive perspective on the youth in foster care placements. He makes the point that for those children in foster care who are mature enough to function independently, foster care allows them the opportunity to access a community for all its resources. He says that this can occur under the daily supervision which foster care provides.

Each of these articles addresses some of the concerns surrounding adolescents in foster care placements. None of them specifically states a reason why it may not work, though they do indicate that other options can be better. A common thread in all of the articles is that specific factors of each child need to be considered while looking at foster care placements or other alternatives.

Not all youth in out-of-home placements are in foster care. A troubled adolescent, or one who has difficulty living in a community, is more likely to be in an institutional setting, while a dependent or neglected adolescent is more likely to be in a foster home setting (Cohen 1986, Kroner 1988). Many children in out-of-home placements spend time in residential treatment centers. It is fair to assume that at least some of these youth are children under state guardianship.

Wells (1993) describes youth in a residential treatment facility. The behaviors used to describe the youth included being more impoverished, having more severe behavior problems and a lower level of social competencies than youth in different placements (1993). These types of behaviors are the type which become so destructive in foster home placements that the children are removed. This movement, as mentioned before, can precipitate a further increase of negative behaviors by a lack of permanent relationship. The goal of residential treatment is to provide the structure necessary to

modify these behavior to facilitate a return of the youth to a home like setting.

Many youth in out-of-home placements spend time in a group home setting. A group home setting is a middle ground between the institutional care, such as residential treatment centers, and foster care.

Adolescents are more likely to be in a group home setting than younger children. The younger children are more apt to be in a specialized foster home setting (Berrick, Courtney, Barth 1993). Group homes generally serve 6-12 youth who do not need the acute services of an institutional setting in one home (Smollar & Condelli 1990). Youth in group home settings also have an increased opportunity to focus on daily living skills and to prepare for independent living, more so, than do those youth who are in institutional settings (Kroner 1988).

One draw back to group home settings is the staff rate of turnover. For many of the youth, attachment to an adult is very important. Cohen (1986) noted that measuring the quality of care a group home provides beyond the basic necessities is hard to determine or measure. This relates to the potential effect it has on youth when staff leave their jobs.

Continued contact with parents

The development of family relationships is important as a life cycle event. For youth in out-of-home placements, this development may be done through different ways than if the

children were to be cared for only by their parents. Children who are placed out of their home may or may not maintain contact with their parents. There are mixed ideas about how important that contact is for the children and for the parents. There is a fair amount of literature written about whether or not it is beneficial for the youth to have continued contact with their parents.

Eagle (1990) did a literature review to assess this question. She found many contributing factors, both negative and positive, for total separation and continued contact with biological parents. One issue she raised was the idea of mourning the lost relationship with the biological parents. The age of the child at separation and the type of separation will impact the level of mourning the child may experience (1990, 127). Eagle asserts that visits have the potential to help the youth know that their parents are alright. These visits may also help diminish some of the possible guilt over the placement that the youth may feel.

The necessity for youth to know that their parents are all-right is often facilitated through visitation with their parents. This may be different with children who are under state guardianship due to the termination of parental rights because in their relationship with their family of origin has been legally nullified. This could, however, be an avenue to consider for these youth. Are children better off if they can be in continued contact with their parents, even if their

parents have lost all legal rights and responsibilities for them? Or, are the children in a better position to start fresh?

Contact or a lack of contact with children in out-of-home placements may also have an effect on the biological parents of the children. The longer the children are away from their parents, the easier it is for the parents to become accustomed to not caring for the children (Kates, Johnson, Rader & Strieder, 1991). There is also the potential that the parents, when unable to maintain meaningful contact, will begin to detach themselves from their children who are in out-of-home placements (Kates et al 1991).

Rosenberg (1991) discusses the importance of visitation and the fact that for many children, their memory of their parent will be of the positive characteristics instead of the negative ones. Even when the negative behavior many have been the precipitating cause for the child being in placement, the child will remember the positive attributes of their parent. Rosenberg also asserts that it is important for children involved in a therapeutic situation to have contact with their abusive parent to successfully help the child deal with the abuse Which resulted in their removal from their parents.

The parents' interactions with their children, during visitation, is extremely important for the children (Schatz, 1991). For those children who are planning for reunification, it is extremely important to know that their parents are

working on the behaviors which caused the separation resulting in an out-of-home placement for the children. For those youth who will not be returning home, the behavior during visitation may be more important in terms of influencing attachment between the children and the adults.

Defining what attachment is can be helpful to set guidelines for what is needed for youth regarding contact. Mary Ainsworth's definition of attachment is, "An 'attachment' is an affectional bond, and hence an attachment figure is never wholly interchangeable with or replaceable by another, even through there may be others to whom one is also attached" (1989, 711). This definition is critical to consider while working with youth under state guardianship. It is assumed that most often, when there has been a termination of parental rights, there is no longer contact with the biological parents. In this case, it is important to find an avenue to address the loss and the grief associated with losing that primary relationship without simply attempting to replace it with another adult.

The question of contact coupled with adolescent development puts the youth in a vulnerable state. Attachment is a key issue when considering the development of youth. During adolescence it is assumed that in healthy family situations the adults will have an increased tolerance for a youth's development of separating behavior. This is accompanied with an offering of support and validation (Lopez

& Gover 1993). It is important to establish this for youth in out-of-home placements, regardless of where they are living.

Literature influencing research

This review of literature influenced the direction of this study by clarifying that youth under state guardianship are not identified in the literature independent of other youth in out-of-home placements. It is reflected through the literature that there are many contributing factors which influence how youth in out of home placements behave, the type of placements they have and how their development is effected. It is unclear if these factors are primary in the cases involving youth under state guardianship.

Theoretical Framework

This investigator will be operating from a General Systems Theory as a framework throughout this study. It is the assumption of this investigator that the systems at work in the environment of the youth impact how the youth function. The General Systems Theory has an ecological framework which considers boundaries as defined by family and community (Germain 1991). This is of particular importance to youth under state guardianship who do not have a specific family to define or outline the parameters of their individual boundaries. Instead, all of their boundaries are defined by a community standard.

A part of being influenced by one's environment includes the dissemination of information. For youth living in a single family throughout their development, the process by which information is learned and shared is a consistent and constant experience. For youth who move throughout several different living situations, the method of information dissemination has a great potential to change. This change can create a particular level of stress in the environment of the youth. This stress correlates to the idea of balance or homeostasis (Hartman & Laird, 1983). The ability to maintain balance, assumes that the individual in question has the tools to adapt to his or her surroundings.

The ability to adapt to one's surroundings is influenced directly by the type of supports present in the youth's environment. For those youth who have several living situations, it becomes difficult to maintain or to develop adequate supports which would allow for positive adaptation. In spite of a lack of adequate supports, these youth are expected to shift and adapt without difficulty to the many different situations they encounter in out-of-home placements.

Research questions

The two research questions which emerged from this review of the literature are: What are the identifying characteristics of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County, Minnesota? What is the placement status of youth

under state guardianship in Hennepin County, Minnesota? The questions specifically addressed in this investigation are those characteristics of the youth which describe their race, gender, age at the time of the first out-of-home placement, age at the time of termination of parental rights, adoptive status, placement history for the youth, contact with parents, and case plan goals for the youth.

The purpose of this review of the literature was to examine the status of youth in out-of-home placements who appear to lack a permanent placement. It is a look at the most common types of placements, their level of success, and the type of child in placement. This literature review reviewed profiles and behavior characteristics of youth in out-of-home placements.

Method

This chapter will discuss the procedures used to conduct this study. The chapter is divided into six sections. Those section are, operational definitions, subjects, instrument design, protection of human subjects, and data collection and analysis. The chapter will end with a discussion of the limitations of this design.

This study is an investigation of the identifying demographic characteristics and the placement status of adolescent youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County, Minnesota. This study is a quantitative study using a descriptive exploratory design to identify the specific characteristics of youth under state guardianship independently of other youth in out-of-home placements. Identifying and outlining this information will provide a profile of youth residing in Hennepin County from January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995, under state guardianship.

Operational Definitions

There are several terms used in this study which need to be operationally defined in order to be clearly measured. For the purpose of this research, a youth under state guardianship is a youth who is under full custody of the State of Minnesota due to a termination of parental rights. The State hold all legal authority regarding these youth. Usually the State is represented in carrying out his responsibility through a

county social worker assigned to the child's case.

Youth are involved in several types of out of home placements. Understanding the different types of placement help to clarify the circumstances youth experience in out-of-home placements. A foster family home as defined in Public Law 96-272, is a "foster family home for children which is licensed by the state in which it is situated" (Public Law 96-272, 94 Stat. 504). Long term, or permanency foster care is a type of foster care identified as a foster family who has signed an agreement to take a youth on a permanent basis until the time of adoption or when the youth reaches the age of emancipation. Though there is a written agreement to keep the youth in their home, the option for discharge is always present.

Adoption is a permanent placement involving a transfer of legal authority from the state to the adoptive parent for a youth. These families occasionally receive funding from the State if the child qualifies as a special needs child. Usually, adoptive homes do not receive such additional funding.

A group home is a residential setting for multiple youth to live together, usually for a temporary period of time. The group home may have been developed to address specific behavior types or to house certain group of children based upon their common traits. A group home is usually staffed with trained staff people, none of whom is a permanent

resident in the home.

A residential treatment facility is an institution designed to provide a high level of treatment to youth for a limited amount of time. Youth generally are placed in residential treatment due to extreme behavior concerns. There is usually an intense focus on behavior modification for the youth before they return to their parents or to a foster care setting.

The child welfare system will be considered to be any division of the following: Child Protection, Children and Family Services, and Juvenile Corrections Services. This investigation will focus specifically on the Hennepin County Children and Family Services Adoption Unit.

Subjects

The study population used in this investigation is a purposive sample. The study population for this study was all youth who were eligible for adoption in Hennepin County. The subjects being investigated will be male and female youth from birth to age 17, who have the legal status of being youth under state guardianship during the time of January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995. They are youth monitored by Hennepin County Children and Family Services Adoptions Unit. The subjects were studied through the use of existing data in the Adoptions Unit computer data base.

Instrument Design

Instruments which use a measurement method with will generate the same results each time indicates a high level of reliability (Rubin & Babbie (1993)). This instrument has a high level of reliability because the questionnaire asks all closed ended, quantitative questions. This should produce measurable and consistent results in a numerical construct. The only open ended questions will be those asking for "other" and needing an identification different from those on the survey.

The external validity refers to the instruments ability to generalized the results of the study beyond the study in question (Rubin & Babbie, 1993). The external validity of this instrument is unclear. Generalizing these results to other youth under state guardianship in the State of Minnesota may not be accurate due to the specific type of youth residing in Hennepin County.

Hennepin County serves an urban population with many different ethnic and economic groups than are represented by the rest of the State of Minnesota. According to the 1990 Census, 22% of all Caucasian people, 63% of all African American people, 30% of all Native American people, 38% of all Asian American people in the state of Minnesota reside in Hennepin County (1990 Census).

These results will also be difficult to generalize outside the State of Minnesota. Each state has the potential

to monitor their population of youth under state guardianship differently. This study would only be valuable to those other states who operate on a similar standard as the State of Minnesota in Hennepin County.

The instrument used in the survey design is a questionnaire generated by this investigator. It was created through the use of the literature review. The characteristics chosen to study were those identified in the literature review as variables which influence the type, length and reason for placement of the youth.

The questionnaire is designed to investigate whether or not youth under state guardianship, as a group, have particular characteristics previously identified in the literature. The questionnaire sought to find the most general and common characteristics of the youth under state guardianship so that an image can be presented which accurately describes the status of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County.

The questionnaire was utilized through the assistance of the Adoptions Unit Statistician. The Statistician will generate the appropriate information from the computer records to assist this investigator fill in the questionnaire. A copy of the questionnaire and the instruction sheet is located in Appendix A.

Protection of Human Subjects

A copy of the letter of approval from Hennepin County is located in Appendix B. A copy of the letter of approval from the Augsburg Internal Review Board is located in Appendix C.

The confidentiality of the subjects in this investigation will be protected in several ways. This investigator will not have direct access to the client files or to the names of the subjects. The answers to the questions were generated from the agency computer database. The subjects will be further protected because none of the information presented will identify a single subject. Instead, the information will be generated and presented in an aggregate manner.

There are no incentives or rewards being offered to the subjects or to Hennepin County Children and Family Services Adoption Unit. A copy of this thesis will be made available to the Adoptions Unit upon its completion.

Data Collection and Analysis

The use of existing data from Hennepin County was chosen because Hennepin County represents about half of the youth under state guardianship in the State of Minnesota. It has a large child welfare system and a diverse client population. Approximately five hundred children, in Hennepin County, who were under state guardianship during the years of 1994 and 1995. The years 1994 and 1995 were chosen because it is the most recent available data.

The data collected through the questionnaire was analyzed by using frequency distributions. Means will be assigned to the variables being discussed in order to assess the most common characteristics of the youth presented by the questionnaire. There will also be an analysis of cross-tabulation of the results by gender, race and age for all of the questions.

Though this instrument has a limitation based upon its inability to be generalized to other populations, the instrument clearly details the population being studied and how the information will be generated. The instrument is designed to maintain confidentiality of the study population while generating the necessary information to assess whether this population have unique characteristics separate from other youth in out of home placements. Though the use of this instrument, an accurate description of youth awaiting adoption in Hennepin County can be created.

Findings

This chapter presents the results of the study. The data provided a response to one of the two research questions. The first research question, "What are the identifying characteristics of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County Minnesota during the time of January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995?" was answered by the data provided to answer eight of the questions in the questionnaire. The second research question, "What is the placement status of youth under state guardianship living in Hennepin county during the time of January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995?" could not be answered as a result of the inability to provide information to answer five of the questions in the questionnaire.

The questionnaire was designed to ask for information about all youth under state guardianship. The responses to the questions represent those youth for whom an adoptive home was still being sought.

Each year a certain number of youth are transferred from the Adoptions Unit to A Permanency Unit. The information is not available at this time to know exactly how many children were transferred from the adoptions Unit to a Permanency Unit during 1994 and 1995. According to a conversation with Kevin McTigue, Supervisor in the Hennepin County Permanency Program, twenty youth were transferred from the Adoptions Unit to a Permanency Unit from the time of 4/1/95 through 4/30/96

(personal communication, April 29, 1996). This is a slight increase from previous years.

Those children who are moved to a permanency unit were not studied in this investigations. The number listed above gives an indication of how many youth may not be represented in the results of his study.

The response listed in the "Other" categories on the questionnaire represent those children who are bi-racial. This encompasses bi-racial youth of all racial groups. The findings will be presented in this chapter by outlining the results of the eight questions answered, and then listing the five unanswered questions.

Survey Questions - Answered

Youth Eligible for Adoption

Information was gathered regarding the racial configuration and age of youth eligible for adoption. As illustrated in Table 4.1 the majority of youth eligible for adoption in 1994 and in 1995 were African American. In 1994 the total number of youth eligible for adoption was 464. Of those youth, 235 (51%) were African American; 111 (24%) were Caucasian; 27 (6%) were Native American; 4 (.9%) were Asian American; 107 (23%) were bi-racial. There were no Hispanic youth eligible for adoption in 1994.

In 1995, the total number of youth eligible for adoption

was 593. Of those youth, 331 (59%) African American; 115 (19%) Caucasian; 41 (7%) Native American; 3 (.2%) were Asian American; 103 (17%) were bi-racial. There were no Hispanic youth eligible for adoption in 1995.

Table 4.1

Number of youth eligible for adoption, by race, in 1994 and 1995.

	AA	Cauc	NA	Hisp	As.A	Other
1994	235	111	27	0	4	107
1995	331	115	41	0	3	103

Of those youth eligible for adoption in 1994, 207 (45%) were 0-4 years of age; 206 (44%) were 5-9; 44 (9%) were 10-13; and 7 (2%) were 14-17. By age, of those youth who were eligible for adoption in 1995, 229 (39%) were 0-4 years old; 268 (45%) were 5-9 years old; 82 (14%) were 10-13 years old; and 14 (2%) were 14-17 years old.

Table 4.2

Number of youth eligible for adoption, by age, in 1994 and 1995.

	0-4 years	5-9 years	10-13 years	14-17 years
1994	207	206	44	7
1995	229	268	82	14

Reason for Placement

Two questions in the questionnaire were designed to identify the number of youth who had experienced a termination of parental rights due to a parent focused reason or due to a child focused reason. The response is that all of the youth who experienced a termination of parental rights in 1994 and in 1995 was the result of a parent focused reason.

Number of youth adopted

In 1994, 464 youth were eligible for adoption and in 1995, 593 were eligible for adoption. The questionnaire asked how many of those youth eligible for adoption were adopted. The results noted that the number of Caucasian youth adopted was slightly more than the number of African American youth.

The total number of youth adopted in 1994 was 54. Of those youth adopted, 22 (41%) were African American; 23 (43%) were Caucasian; 2 (3%) were Native American; 7 (13%) were bi-racial. There were no Hispanic, or Asian American adopted in 1994.

In 1995 the total number of youth adopted was 73. Of those youth, 23 (32%) were African American; 35 (48%) were Caucasian; 2 (3%) were Native American; 13 (18%) bi-racial. There were no Hispanic or Asian American youth adopted in 1995.

Table 4.3

Number of youth adopted, by race, in 1994 and 1995.

	AA	Cauc	NA	Hisp	As. A	Other
1994	22	23	2	0	0	7
1995	23	35	2	0	0	13

By age, of those youth who were adopted in 1994, 18 (33%) of the were 0-4 years old; 32 (59%) were 5-9 years old; 4 (7%) were 10-13 years old; and 0 were 14-17 years old. By age, of those youth who were adopted in 1995, 20 (27%) were 0-4 years old; 37 (51%) were 5-9 years old; 14 (19%) were 10-13 years old; and 2 (3%) were 14-17 years old.

Table 4.4

Number of youth adopted, by age, in 1994 and 1995.

	0-4 years	5-7 years	10-13 years	14-17 years
1994	18	32	4	0
1995	20	37	14	2

Ages of youth at initial out of home placement and at the time of termination of parental rights

According to the results generated through this questionnaire, most of children were between the ages of 0-9 at the time of their initial out of home placement and at the time of a termination of parental rights. According to the results regarding the age at which a child is first out of

home in 1994, 287 (78%) were 0-4 years old; 68 (19%) were 5-7 years old; 12 (3%) were 10-13 years old; and no youth were 14-17 years old.

According to the results regarding the age at which a child is first out of home in 1995, 434 (78%) of the youth were 0-4 years old; 104 (19%) were 5-9 years old; 20 (4%) were 10-13 years old; and no youth were 14-17 years old.

Table 4.5

Number of youth in each age group at their first out of home placement in 1994 and 1995.

	0-4 years	5-7 years	10-13 years	14-17 years
1994	287	68	12	0
1995	434	104	20	0

The results of the questionnaire regarding the age of a child at the time of termination of parental rights note that in 1994, 184 (48%) of the youth were 0-4 years old; 158 (41%) of the youth were 5-9 years old; 37 (10%) were 10-13 years old; and 5 (2%) were 14-17 years old.

The results of the regarding the age of children at the time of termination of parental rights indicate that in 1995, 269 (46%) of the youth were 0-4 years old; 238 (41%) of the youth were 5-9 years old; 66 (11%) were 10-13 years old; and 14 (2%) of the youth were 14-17 years old.

Table 4.6

Number of youth in each age group at the time of termination of parental rights.

	0-4 years	5-7 years	10-13 years	14-17 years
1994	184	158	37	5
1995	269	238	66	14

Youth in sibling groups

According to the results of this study, many of the children eligible for adoption were in sibling groups. The results of the questionnaire indicate that in 1994 there were 228 youth in sibling groups awaiting adoption. Of those youth, 138 (61%) were African American; 34 (15%) were Caucasian; 10 (4%) were Native American; 56 (25%) were bi-racial. There were no Hispanic or Asian American youth in sibling groups awaiting adoption.

In 1995 there were 359 youth awaiting adoption in sibling groups. Of those youth, 204 (57%) were African American; 76 (21%) were Caucasian; 17 (5%) were Native American; 1 (.3%) was Asian American; 61 (17%) were bi-racial females. There were no Hispanic or Asian American youth in sibling groups awaiting adoption.

Table 4.7

Number of youth in sibling groups, by race, awaiting adoption in 1994 and 1995.

	AA	Cauc	NA	Hisp	As.A	other
1994	138	34	10	0	0	56
1995	204	76	17	0	1	61

By age, of those youth in siblings groups in 1994, 76 (33%) were 0-4 years old, 119 (53%) were 5-9 years old; 28 (12%) were 10-13 years old; and 5 (2%) were 14-17 years old. By age, of those youth in sibling groups 1995, 17 (24%) were 0-4 years old; 191 (53%) were 5-9 years old; 70 (20%) were 10-13 years old and 11 (2%) were 14-17 years old.

Table 4.8

Number of youth in sibling groups, by age, awaiting adoption in 1994 and 1995.

	0-4 years	5-7 years	10-13 years	14-17 years
1994	76	119	28	5
1995	17	191	70	11

One of the questions in the questionnaire asked if there is an average age range when an adoptive home is no longer sought for youth under state guardianship. The answer was yes. The average age is twelve years old. At this time, provided the circumstances are appropriate, the youth would be

transferred from the Adoptions Unit to a Permanency Unit.

Survey Questions - Unanswered

The second research question, What is the placement status of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County during the time of January 1, 1994 through December 31, 1995?, could not be answered through this investigation. The agency data base used for this study does not track the information needed to provide answers to five of the survey questions asked in this study. Those five questions were designed to provide a response to the second research question.

It is possible that this information is available in a different manner through the county, but it was not accessible through this particular investigation. The following is a list of the questions which could not be answered through the data provided in this investigation. These questions are;

How many youth under state guardianship, while eligible for adoption, were in each of the following placements, Licensed Foster Care or Licensed Kinship Care?

What is the number of out of home placements for youth under state guardianship, while waiting to be adopted, in each of the following categories?

In each of the following categories, How many youth under state guardianship, maintain contact with their parents while waiting for adoption?

In each of the following categories, How many of those youth under state guardianship who were adopted, were adopted by a family member or kin?

How many youth who were eligible for adoption have a next of kin or another identified adult resource, outside of the child welfare system available to them?

These questions address the concerns of continued contact with family or kin and placement status for the youth while they are awaiting adoption. One of the areas not addressed in this investigation is the issue of attachment. The level of attachment a youth has to his or her family or kin network could have been explored through the potential responses of these questions. Each of the above questions is an area for further study to be discussed at a different time.

The results of this study indicate that children under state guardianship during this time are largely young, children of color, and in sibling groups. An interesting finding of this investigation is that though many of the children eligible for adoption are boys, girls are more often adopted. These findings identify several further areas for exploration and future study. In particular, those areas which could not be addressed through a lack of information regarding attachment and placement status of youth awaiting adoption.

Discussion

This chapter will discuss the results of the questionnaire in relationship to the literature review and the research questions proposed in this investigation. In particular, the characteristics of the youth, issues regarding placement of children of color, permanency case plan goals, and continued contact with parents will be discussed. The limitations of this investigation will also be explored in this chapter.

Characteristics of youth in out-of-home placements

In the literature, Igelhart (1993) asserted that white children enter out-of-home placement due to a child focused reason and non-white children enter due to a parent focused reason. From the research done in this investigation it is unclear if this trait is true for youth in Hennepin County who are under state guardianship. As found through the survey, the reason for all termination of parental rights is attributed to be a parent focused reason.

It is interesting, however, that so many of the youth who are under state guardianship in this investigation, are children of color. If Igelhart's (1993) assertion is accurate, it raises the question of what types of behavior, or perceived behavior, are the parents of children of color being evaluated upon at the initial time of removal of their children from their home, and the subsequent termination of

parental rights.

Igelhart (1993) also noted that adolescents are more likely to enter care due to their behavior. In this investigation, most of the youth in placement who are awaiting adoption, had their first out of home placement between the ages zero and nine. This corroborates with the response to question number two which indicates that a termination of parental rights is the result of the parent's behavior.

An interesting characteristic of these youth noted through this investigation is that in 1994 and in 1995 the percentages of youth in each age category were similar, if not the same for the age at first out of home placement and age at the time of termination of parental rights. In both 1994 and 1995, 78% of the youth had their first out of home placement between the ages of zero and four. In both years 19% of the youth had their first out of home placement between the ages of five and nine.

Placement of children of color

According to the results of this investigation, the placement of children of color is a notable identifying characteristic of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County. There are more children of color under state guardianship, awaiting adoption, than Caucasian children. Children of color represent 80% of the youth awaiting adoption. In particular, African American youth are highly

represented in the population of youth awaiting adoption. It is of interest to note that even though African American youth are the largest population of youth under state guardianship in 1994 and 1995, more Caucasian youth were adopted during those years. This trend was most evident in 1995.

The African American youth also are highly represented in sibling groups. Though approximately one half of those youth awaiting adoption were in sibling groups, 61% of those youth were African American in 1994 and 57% in 1995. The need for adoptive homes who can take sibling groups may be a factor in the lower number of African American youth adopted each year.

Permanency case plan goals

From the results of this investigation, it is difficult to assess what types of specific case plan goals were in place for the youth. Obviously, the primary goal for all of the youth is a permanent placement. It is unknown, however, if those children who were adopted, were adopted into homes of their kin, or into other adoptive homes.

This investigation was also unable to answer the question about whether these youth are awaiting adoption in Licensed Foster Care or in Licensed Kinship Foster Care. Due to the use of the Heritage Act in Minnesota, it is expected that kinship placements are sought for the youth. From this study it is unclear how many of the youth actually reside with or are adopted by their kin or a relative.

This investigation was also unable to identify how many out of home placements these youth under state guardianship have while awaiting adoption in Hennepin County. The number of placements is also unknown for those youth who are moved from the Adoptions Unit to a Permanency Unit. In the case of those youth transferred to a Permanency Unit, it is possible that an adoptive home could not be sought due to the behavior of the youth not being conducive to a home environment.

Continued contact with parents

The issue of maintaining contact with parents could not be answered through this investigation. The information in the response to question number two, stating that all terminations of parental rights are the results of parental behavior may serve as an indicator of the ability or inability for later contact between parents and children.

The developmental stages of attachment which young children go through, particularly those youth under state guardianship was not addressed directly in this study. The issues of separation for children of different ages was not examined through this investigation. It is notable, however, that most of the youth in this investigation were zero to four years old at the time of their first out of home placement. Most of the children were between the ages of five and nine at the time of the termination of parental rights.

Assuming that family reunification is the plan for at

least some of these children after their initial out of home placement, before a termination of parental rights, the question raised is, how many placements do these young children have and what impact does it have on their developmental stages for attachment? A further question is how does the age of the child during this process affect their ability to bond with care givers?

According to Ainsworth (1989), no one figure in a child's life is wholly interchangeable with another figure. This being the case, it may be difficult for youth with multiple placements to bond easily with care givers, since most care givers take the role of a parent figure. The inability to bond may influence the lack of an adoptive home for those particular youth.

Research Questions

The first research question asked in this investigation was "What is the placement status of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County Minnesota during the time of January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1995." This question could not be answered through this investigation. For youth who were awaiting adoption during this time the information regarding the type of placements and the number of placements they have was unavailable. The only placement status known is, of the youth eligible for adoption in 1994, 12% were adopted. In 1995, of the youth eligible for adoption, 12%

were adopted.

The second research question asked in this investigation was "What are the identifying characteristics of youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County Minnesota during the time of January 1, 1994 and December 31, 1995." For those youth awaiting adoption during this time, race and age were noted to be two of the most prominent characteristics. According to this investigation, most of the youth awaiting adoption during this time were children of color, specifically African American youth. It was also noted that most of the youth awaiting adoption were between the ages of zero and nine.

Limitations

There are several limitations to this investigation. First is this investigation sought information about youth under state guardianship in Minnesota. The population of interest was limited to Hennepin County which does not reflect the youth demographics for the State of Minnesota. Thus, the results of this investigation cannot be generalized to other groups of youth under state guardianship outside of Hennepin County.

A second limitation of this study is that it does not cover all youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County during the years of 1994 and 1995. Instead, the results of this study reflect only those youth for whom an adoptive home

was being sought. It is unknown at the time of this investigation, how many youth under state guardianship there were in Hennepin County who are a part of the Permanency Unit.

A notable limitation of the data base used by this study was the lack of information available to answer five of the thirteen questions asked in the questionnaire. These answers would have made answering the first research question a greater possibility. This lack of information is a direct indication of the need for further studies about this particular population of youth in out-of-home placements in Minnesota.

Through the results of this study it becomes evident that many of the youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County awaiting adoption are young children. Most of the children enter out-of-home care before they are four year old and then experience a termination of parental rights before they are nine. The results also identify that children of color and children in sibling groups are heavily represented in this population.

Though the study was able to identify characteristics which describe the children, the primary limitation of this study is that the questions about placement status for these youth could not be answered. This study created a general outline of the average child under state guardianship, but was unable to describe their placement status while awaiting adoption.

Conclusion

A profile of the average children under state guardianship, awaiting adoption in Hennepin County was generated through this study. This chapter will address areas for future study regarding youth under state guardianship. The chapter will address the implication for social work practice and areas for future research. Finally, this chapter will explore those questions which could not be answered through this investigation.

Implications for social work practice

There are many social workers at the county and state level who work with or provide services to youth who are in out-of-home placements. As reflected through this study, it is reasonable to assume that some of the youth the professionals will encounter will be youth under state guardianship.

Those professionals who are working with youth in Hennepin County can benefit from this research through its identification of the types of youth presently under state guardianship. This investigation identified the most common characteristics of youth under state guardianship as being children ages 0-9, in sibling groups, and children of color.

It is valuable to be aware of the number of children of color who are legally free for adoption. The percentage of children of color under state guardianship corresponds to the

high number of children of color in total out of home placements. In particular, this study identified that many of the children of color in Hennepin County who are under state guardianship are African American youth. For those professionals who work with youth under state guardianship, it is important to be aware of the high number of youth of color under state guardianship and incorporate culturally specific resources for these youth.

Not only is it important for professionals to incorporate culturally specific services, it is important to look at why so many of the children under state guardianship are children of color. An examination of original reasons for placement and subsequent services to families would be an important area to examine in order to assess the needs of these youth and help to explain the high number of youth of color under state guardianship.

It is also important to have the knowledge that many of the youth under state guardianship will spend time in foster care or other institutional care placements between the time they leave their families to the time of their adoption. As a result of family reunification policies, this is particularly true from the time of initial out of home placement to the time of termination of parental rights (Public Law 96-272, 1980). It is important that social workers are adept at assessing developmental stages of attachment and can provide the necessary interventions for

those youth who are not meeting those stages.

This research identifies the need for social workers to engage in a role of advocacy. There is a need for an increased awareness in order to help the community advocate for the recruitment of adoptive homes for children in sibling groups. This is especially in communities for children of color.

Areas for future research

This investigation raised more questions than it answered. There are several areas for further study with this population. Of particular interest would be the initial reason for placement for these youth and the subsequent services their families receive prior to a termination of parental rights. A study examining the variable for reason for placement coupled with the issue of race seems of particular importance due to the over representation of children of color in placement in Hennepin County.

Another future study of importance would be to identify the behavior traits that exist within this population. Specifically, behavior traits of those youth who are not adopted and then age out of the system in permanent foster care placements. A chronological study measuring whether their behavior traits improve or deteriorate in foster care is an important consideration.

A study needs to be conducted on the educational

achievement and success of youth under state guardianship. It is important to identify if these youth are acquiring an adequate education due to the potential for multiple placements, as well as, the potential deterioration of their behavior. It would be of interest to do a comparative study of youth under state guardianship to those youth who are adopted on their behavior characteristics and academic success.

With the identification of demographic characteristics cited in this investigation, a next step would be to do a qualitative investigation of the perceptions held about these youth. This could be accomplished by interviewing the youth, their social workers or probation officers, and their care providers. It will be important to assess what the perceived strengths and needs are of this population in each of these groups, compared to what has been evidenced in this study.

Survey Questions - Unanswered

The survey questions left unanswered in the study indicate several areas which need further examination. The questions left unanswered fit into two general categories of placement status and attachment. The data used for this study could not identify the role of kinship placements for these youth. With the use of the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Minnesota Heritage Act, it is assumed that some of these children are in kinship placements. It would be of benefit to

how many of the youth awaiting adoption are in placements with kin and how that affects their development, particularly relative to attachment. It would also be interesting to know how often these kinship placements evolve into adoptive placements.

The question of youth maintaining contact with their parents also could not be answered. Nor could the question about youth having an identified resource outside of the child welfare system be answered. Both of these questions address the issue of attachment process of the youth. It also addresses the availability of a consistent person or people in the youth's life. Neither of these questions could be addressed, but both are important to consider when evaluating children development and attachment stages of the youth.

This study identified a profile of the average type of child who is under state guardianship, awaiting adoption in 1994 and 1995 in Hennepin County, Minnesota. The study identified that many of the youth are young, children of color, and in sibling groups. Each of these findings has implications for social work practice. These findings, coupled with the inability to answer five of the survey questions, indicate several areas for future research needed about this population.

There are many professionals who work with youth under state guardianship in Minnesota. The information gathered in this investigation provides indicators of areas which those

professionals can pay particular attention to or seek further information about when providing services to these youth. It is clear through this investigation that further study needs to be done on and with this population of youth.

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Appendix A

Instructions

This questionnaire is designed to record demographic information describing youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County who were eligible for adoption. Each question is divided by the time span of two years. Those years are 1994 as January 1, 1994 - December 31, 1994 and 1995 as January 1, 1995 - December 31, 1995.

The principle investigator will meet with the Adoptions Unit Statistition from Hennepin County Children and Family Services. The primary investigator will record information from the Hennepin County Data base about youth under state guardianship in Hennepin County by the categories of age, race, and gender divided by the years 1994 and 1995.

The principle investigator will tabulate the data and preform statistical tests on the data to measure for significance and correlation. The results of the data will then be presented in the Masters of Social Work Thesis written by the principle investigator. The principle investigator will store the data in her home until the time of June 30, 1996.

1) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, HOW MANY YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP WERE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION?

1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

2) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, HOW MANY OF THE YOUTH EXPERIENCED A TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS DUE TO A PARENT FOCUSED REASON? 1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
1995:				
African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

3) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, HOW MANY OF THE YOUTH EXPERIENCED A TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS DUE TO A CHILD FOCUSED REASON? 1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

4) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, HOW MANY YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP WERE ADOPTED?

1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

5) HOW MANY YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP WERE THE FOLLOWING AGES AT THE TIME OF THEIR FIRST OUT OF HOME PLACEMENT?

1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

6) HOW MANY YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP WERE THE FOLLOWING AGES AT THE TIME OF THE TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS?

1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

7) HOW MANY YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP, WHILE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION, WERE IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING PLACEMENTS?

1994:

Licensed Foster Care

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

Licensed Foster care

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1994: Kinship Foster Care

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995: Kinship Foster care

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

8) WHAT IS THE NUMBER OF OUT OF HOME PLACEMENTS FOR YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP, WHILE WAITING TO BE ADOPTED, IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES? 1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

9) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, HOW MANY YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP, MAINTAIN CONTACT WITH THEIR PARENTS WHILE WAITING FOR ADOPTION? 1994:

African American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

African American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

1995:

African American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

African American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

10) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, HOW MANY OF THE YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP, ARE A MEMBER OF A SIBLING GROUP AWAITING ADOPTION? 1994:

African American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

African American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

1995:

African American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

African American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Caucasian/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Native American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Hispanic/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Asian American/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/male

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

Other/female

0-4_____ 5-9_____ 10-13_____ 14-17_____

11) IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES, HOW MANY OF THOSE YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP WHO WERE ADOPTED, WERE ADOPTED BY A FAMILY MEMBER OR KIN? 1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
1995:				
African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

12) HOW MANY YOUTH WHO WERE ELIGIBLE FOR ADOPTION HAVE A NEXT OF KIN OR ANOTHER IDENTIFIED ADULT RESOURCE, OUTSIDE OF THE CHILD WELFARE SYSTEM AVAILABLE TO THEM?
1994:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

1995:

African American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
African American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Caucasian/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Native American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Hispanic/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Asian American/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/male	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____
Other/female	0-4_____	5-9_____	10-13_____	14-17_____

13) IS THERE AN AVERAGE AGE RANGE WHEN AN ADOPTIVE HOME IS NO LONGER SOUGHT FOR YOUTH UNDER STATE GUARDIANSHIP?

No_____ Yes (please specify age)_____

Appendix B

bj: No Subject
te: 96-04-01 12:32:18 EST
om: KEVIN.MCTIGUE@CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US
:cdjunkie@aol.com, weisbrod@augsborg.edu

mberly Doran
24 Park Ave. South #2
ls.m MN 55407

Doran:

am wriiting to you to verify you have the permission of Hennepin County
options to have access to our data collection files for use in your Master
Social Work thesis with the understanding you will provide us with a copy
the completed thesis.

ank you once again and feel free to contact me with any further questions or
ncerns at 348-3378.

ry truly yours,

vin McTigue

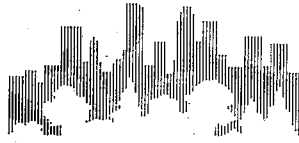
pervisor in the Hennepin County Permanency Program

----- Headers -----

om <@IBM.CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US:WF2443@CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US> Mon Apr 1 12:32:03
96
turn-Path: <@IBM.CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US:WF2443@CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US>
ceived: from IBM.CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US (ibm.co.hennepin.mn.us [137.70.8.6]) by
in20.mail.aol.com (8.6.12/8.6.12) with SMTP id MAA20498 for
djunkie@aol.com>; Mon, 1 Apr 1996 12:32:02 -0500
ssage-Id: <199604011732.MAA20498@emin20.mail.aol.com>
ceived: from CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US by IBM.CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US (IBM MVS SMTP V3R1)
with BSMTTP id 2397; Mon, 01 Apr 96 11:32:31 CST
te: Mon, 1 Apr 96 11:31:49 CST
: cdjunkie@aol.com, weisbrod@augsborg.edu
om: <KEVIN.MCTIGUE@CO.HENNEPIN.MN.US>

Appendix C

AUGSBURG



C • O • L • L • E • G • E

DATE: April 3, 1996

TO: Kimberly Shannon Doran
3224 Park Avenue # 2
Minneapolis MN 55407

FROM: Rita R. Weisbrod, Ph.D.
Chair, Institutional Review Board
612-330-1227 or FAX 612-330-1649
E-mail: weisbrod@augsborg.edu

RE: Your IRB application : "Youth Under State Guardianship"

With the receipt of permission from Kevin McTigue in Hennepin County Children and Family Services, your application is approved.

Your IRB approval number is 95-52-1.

If there are substantive changes to your project which change your procedures regarding the use of human subjects, you should report them to me by phone or in writing so that they may be reviewed for possible increased risk.

I wish you well in your project!

Copy: Brenda Dewberry-Rooney

